GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1978
ANSWERED ON:29.11.2001
TESTING OF ANTHRAX VIRUS
RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether cases of Anthrax virus have been investigated in Defence Research Centres;

(b) if so, the number of such cases investigated in Defence Research Centres till now;

(c) the number of cases found positive; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to deal with such problem?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES)
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 36 samples have been analysed at Defence Research & Development Establishment (DRDE), Gwalior.These include samples received from Delhi, Mumbai, Gwalior, Bhind, Ratlam and Chhinddwara.

(c) Nil.

(d) DRDO has started conducting training courses to deal with the problem of bio-terrorism.Government has circulated general instructions on the subject to all authorities of health Deptts of centre and state/UT Governments and hospitals.These instructions include likely method of dissemination of biological and chemical agents, incubation period, lethality, availability of vaccines, anti-microbial therapy and treatment. The other measures include conducting awareness workshops, dissemination of information through print and electronic media and reviewing the situation regularly.